

Definitions, Abbreviations and Acronyms

Definitions

Behaviors –

- **Foraging** – active searching for food
- **Spawning** – releasing or depositing eggs/sperm
- **Rearing** – the act of caring for offspring until they are fully grown (e.g., marine mammals) or growing and developing in a relatively protective environment (e.g., fish)
- **Overwintering** – sheltering during the winter season
- **Migration** – seasonal movement of animals from one location to another
- **Aggregation** – grouping of animals

Life Stages –

- **Eggs** – an oval or round object laid by a female fish containing a developing embryo
- **Hatchlings¹ (Alevin)** – recently hatched fish that live off of a yolk sac attached to their body
- **Larvae¹** – a young fish which at birth or hatching is fundamentally unlike its parent and must pass through metamorphosis before assuming adult characteristics; **Atlantic Sturgeon:** less than 4 weeks old, with total lengths less than 30 mm
- **Fry¹** – a young salmon living in freshwater that is older than an alevin and younger than a parr or smolt
- **Parr¹** – a young salmonid (salmon or trout) with parr-marks (e.g., stripes) before migration to the sea and after dispersal from the redd²
- **Smolt¹** – a young salmonid which has developed silvery coloring on its sides, obscuring the parr marks, and which is about to migrate or has just migrated into the sea
- **Young of year (YOY)** – age-0 fish, or those animals born within the past year
- **Juvenile – A) fish** – until fish enters adult population or reaches sexual maturity; **for Atlantic sturgeon only:** young fish that has not yet migrated out of its natal river (e.g., river it was born in)
 - B) sea turtles** – not at full size or strength; gender cannot yet be determined
- **Sub-adult – A) loggerhead** – an individual that is approaching sexual maturity
 - B) Atlantic sturgeon** – an individual that has left its natal river and enters marine waters but is not yet sexually mature
- **Adult** – sexually mature and interacting with other adults

Acronyms

- **DPS** – Distinct Population Segment
- **RKM** – River Kilometer
- **ELS** – early life stage, can include larval and fry stages

¹ Apply to GOM DPS Atlantic Salmon only

² Redd - depression, usually a pit or a trough in the stream gravel, dug in preparation for, or during, spawning